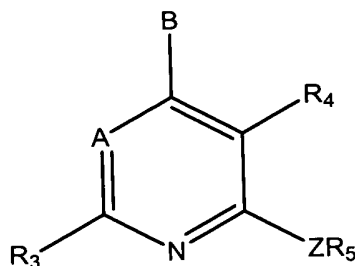


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is -CR₇;

B is -NR₁R₂, -CR₁R₂R₁₁, -C(=CR₂R₁₂)R₁, -NHCHR₁R₂, -OCHR₁R₂, -SCHR₁R₂,
-CHR₂OR₁, -CHR₁OR₂, -CHR₂SR₁, -CHR₂NR₁R₂, -CHR₁NHR₂, -CHR₁N(CH₃)R₂,
or -NR₁₂NR₁R₂;

Z is NH, O, S, -N (C₁-C₂ alkyl)-, -N(C(O)CF₃), - or -C(R₁₃R₁₄)-,

wherein R₁₃ and R₁₄ are each, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or methyl, or one of R₁₃ and R₁₄ is cyano and the other is hydrogen or methyl, or -C(R₁₃R₁₄) is a cyclopropyl group, or Z is nitrogen or CH and forms a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused with R₅, which ring optionally comprises two or three further hetero members selected independently from oxygen, nitrogen, NR₁₂, and S(O)_m, and optionally comprises from one to three double bonds, and is optionally substituted with halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), NH₂, NHCH₃, N(CH₃)₂, CF₃, or OCF₃, with the proviso that said ring does not contain any -S-S-, -S-O-, -N-S-, or -O-O- bonds, and does not comprise more than two oxygen or S(O)_m heterologous members;

R_1 is C(O)H, C(O)(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl), C(O)(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), C(O)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), C(O)(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), -C(O)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl, C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl, -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), or -O-aryl, or -O-(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)-aryl; wherein said aryl, C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl, C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl, C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene, and C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene groups may each independently be optionally substituted with from one to six fluoro and may each independently be optionally substituted with one or two substituents R_8 independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl, -C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl, hydroxy, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF₃, -O-(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl), -O-(C₃-C₅ cyclohydrocarbyl), -O-CO-(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -O-CO-NH(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -O-CO-N(R₂₄)(R₂₅), -N(R₂₄)(R₂₅), -S(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -S(C₃-C₅ cyclohydrocarbyl), [-]-N(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl)CO(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -NHCO(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -COO(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -CONH(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), -CONC₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl)(C₁-C₂ hydrocarbyl), CN, NO₂, -OSO₂(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl), S⁺(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl)(C₁-C₂ hydrocarbyl) I⁻, -SO(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl) and -SO₂(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl); and wherein the C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene, C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl, C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene, and C₃-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl moieties of R_1 may optionally independently contain from one to three double or

triple bonds; and wherein the C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl moieties and C₁-C₆ hydrocarbyl moieties of R₈ can optionally independently be substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁-C₄ alkyl, aryl, -CH₂-aryl, C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl, or -O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), and can optionally independently be substituted with from one to six fluoro, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; and wherein each heterocyclohydrocarbyl group of R₁ contains from one to three heteromoieties selected from oxygen, S(O)_m, nitrogen, and NR₁₂;

R₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂ hydrocarbyl, C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl, C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl, -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₃-C₆ cyclohydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), aryl, -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene)aryl, or -(C₃-C₈ cyclohydrocarbylene)(aryl); wherein each of the foregoing R₂ groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, and C₁-C₆ alkyl, wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from bromo, iodo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -OH, -O-CO-(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -O-CO-N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -S(O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -S(O)₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl), S⁺(C₁-C₆ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), F, CN, and NO₂; and wherein the C₁-C₁₂ hydrocarbyl, -(C₁-C₆ hydrocarbylene), and cyclohydrocarbyl ~~groups~~ groups of 5 - 8 carbon atoms, cyclohydrocarbylene groups of 5 to 8 carbon atoms and heterocyclohydrocarbyl groups of 5 to 8 atoms of R₂ may optionally independently contain from one to three double or triple bonds; and wherein each heterocyclohydrocarbyl group of R₂ contains

from one to three heteromoieties selected from oxygen, S(O)_m, nitrogen, and NR₁₂;

or when R₁ and R₂ are as in -NHCHR₁R₂, -OCHR₁R₂, -SCHR₁R₂, -CHR₁R₂ or -NR₁R₂,

R₁ and R₂ of B may form a saturated 5- to 8-membered ring which may optionally contain one or two double bonds and in which one or two of the ring carbons may optionally be replaced by an oxygen, S(O)_m, nitrogen or NR₁₂; and which carbocyclic ring can optionally be substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, CF₃, -O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -O-CO-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -O-CO-NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -O-CO-N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)CO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -NHCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CONH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CON(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), CN, NO₂, -OSO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), and -SO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), wherein one of said one to three substituents can further be selected from phenyl;

R₃ is methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, methoxy, OCF₃, NH₂, NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl), N(CH₃)₂, -NHCOCF₃, -NHCH₂CF₃, S(O)_m(C₁-C₄ alkyl), CONH₂, -CONHCH₃, CON(CH₃)₂, -CF₃, or CH₂OCH₃;

R₄ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl, C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₅ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl), cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -OR₂₄, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -O-(C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl), -O-(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl), -O-(C₃-C₅ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl), -CH₂SC(S)O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), CH₂OCF₃, CF₃, amino, nitro, -NR₂₄R₂₅, -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)-OR₂₄, -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)Cl, -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)NR₂₄R₂₅,

-NHCOR₂₄, -NHCONR₂₄R₂₅, -CH=NOR₂₄, -NHNOR₂₄R₂₅, -S(O)_mR₂₄, -C(O)R₂₄, -OC(O)R₂₄, -C(O)CN, -C(O)NR₂₄R₂₅, -C(O)NHNOR₂₄R₂₅, and -COOR₂₄, wherein the hydrocarbyl and hydrocarbylene groups of R₄ may optionally independently contain one or two double or triple bonds and may optionally independently be substituted with one or two substituents R₁₀ independently selected from hydroxy, amino, -NHCOCH₃, -NHCOCH₂Cl, -NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₂alkyl), -COO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -CO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₃ thioalkyl, cyano and nitro, and with one to four substituents independently selected from fluoro and chloro;

R₅ is aryl or heteroaryl and is substituted with from one to four substituents R₂₇ independently selected from halo, C₁-C₁₀ hydrocarbyl, -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₄-C₈ heterocycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocycloalkyl), C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkoxy, nitro, cyano, -NR₂₄R₂₅, -NR₂₄COR₂₅, -NR₂₄CO₂R₂₆, -COR₂₄, -OR₂₅, -CONR₂₄R₂₅, -CON(OR₂₂)R₂₃, -CO₂R₂₆, -C=N(OR₂₂)R₂₃, and -S(O)_mR₂₃; wherein said C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene), (C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), (C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene), and (C₄-C₈ heterocycloalkyl) groups can be optionally substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄ hydrocarbylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, nitro, halo, cyano, -NR₂₄R₂₅, -NR₂₄COR₂₅, NR₂₄CO₂R₂₆, -COR₂₄, -OR₂₅, -CONR₂₄R₂₅, CO₂R₂₆, -CO(NOR₂₂)R₂₅, and -S(O)_mR₂₃; and wherein two adjacent substituents of the R₅ group can optionally form

a 5-7 membered ring, saturated or unsaturated, fused to R₅, which ring optionally can contain one, two, or three heterologous members independently selected from O, S(O)_m, and N, but not any -S-S-, -O-O-, -S-O-, or -N-S- bonds, and which ring is optionally substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, nitro, halo, cyano -NR₂₄R₂₅, NR₂₄COR₂₅, NR₂₄CO₂R₂₆, -COR₂₄, -OR₂₅, -CONR₂₄R₂₅, CO₂R₂₆, -CO(NOR₂₆)R₂₅, or -S(O)_mR₂₃; wherein one of said one to four optional substituents R₂₇, can further be selected from -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), SO₂NH(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -SO₂NH(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -SO₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -SO₂NH₂, -NHSO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), and -NHSO₂(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl); and wherein the hydrocarbyl, and hydrocarbylene groups of R₅ may independently optionally contain one double or triple bond;

~~R₆ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), or -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), wherein said alkyl and cycloalkyl may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy or fluoro group;~~

~~or R₆ and R₄ can together form an oxo (=O) group, or can be connected to form a 3-8 membered carbocyclic ring, optionally containing one to three double bonds, and optionally containing one, two, or three heterologous ring members selected from O, SO_m, N, and NR₁₂, but not containing any O-O-, S-O-, S-S-, or N-S bonds, and~~

~~further optionally substituted with C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl or C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl substituent may optionally contain one double or triple bond;~~

R₇ is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, hydroxy, -O(C₁ - C₂)alkyl), -O(cyclopropyl), -COO(C₁- C₂ alkyl), -COO(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -OCF₃, -CF₃, -CH₂OH or CH₂OCH₃;

R₁₁ is hydrogen, hydroxy, fluoro, ethoxy, or methoxy;

R₁₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₂₂ is independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₁₄ alkyl, C₁-C₁₄ haloalkyl, C₃-C₆ alkenyl, C₃-C₆ alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), and (C₁-C₄) alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl);

R₂₃ is independently at each occurrence selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₂-C₈ alkoxyalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), aryl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)aryl, piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine, and thiomorpholine;

R₂₄ and R₂₅ are independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen, -C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)OH, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)-O-(C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl), C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₄-C₈ heterocyclohydrocarbyl), aryl, and -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(aryl), wherein the -C₄-C₈

heterocyclohydrocarbyl groups can each independently optionally be substituted with aryl, CH₂-aryl, or C₁-C₄ alkyl, and can optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds; or, when R₂₄ and R₂₅ are as NR₂₄R₂₅, -C(O)NR₂₄R₂₅, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)NR₂₄R₂₅, or -NHCONR₂₄R₂₅, then NR₂₄R₂₅ may further optionally form a 4 to 8 membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two further hetero members independently selected from S(O)_m, oxygen, nitrogen, and NR₁₂, and optionally containing from one to three double bonds;

R₂₆ is independently at each occurrence selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), -(C₃-C₈ cycloalkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), aryl, and -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)(aryl); and

wherein each m is independently zero, one, or two,

with the proviso that heterocyclohydrocarbylene groups of the compound of formula I, do not comprise any -S-S-, -S-O-, -N-S-, or -O-O- bonds, and do not comprise more than two oxygen or S(O)_m heterologous members.

Claims 2, 3 and 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl which may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro, CF₃, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy.

Claim 6 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is methyl, chloro, or methoxy.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₄ is methyl, -CH₂OH, cyano, trifluoromethoxy, methoxy, chloro, trifluoromethyl, -COOCH₃, -CH₂OCH₃, -CH₂Cl, -CH₂F, ethyl, amino or nitro.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₅ is phenyl substituted with two or three substituents.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₅ is pyridyl substituted with two or three substituents.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A compound according to claim 8 wherein said substituents are selected, independently, from ~~fluoro~~ fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy or fluoro group and which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)O(C₁-C₂ alkyl), C₁-C₃ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, COO(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -(C₁-C₂ alkylene)amino, and -(C(O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl).

Claim 11 (original) A compound according to claim 9 wherein said substituents are selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy or fluoro group and which may optionally contain one carbon-carbon double or triple bond, -(C₁-C₄ alkylene)O(C₁-C₂ alkyl), C₁-C₃ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, -COO(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -(C₁-C₂ alkylene)amino and -(C(O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl).

Claim 12 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

[3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-diethyl-amine;
[3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;
butyl-[3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-amine;
4-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-pyridine;
butyl-[2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-amine;
[3,6-dimethyl-[2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;
[2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;
N4-(1-ethyl-propyl)-6-methyl-3-nitro-N2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyridine-2,4-diamine; 3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-ethyl-(2,2,2-trifluoro-ethyl)-amine; N4-(1-ethyl-propyl)-6-methyl-N2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyridine-2,3,4-triamine; (N-(1-ethyl-propyl)-2-methyl-5-nitro-N'-(2,4,6-trimethyl-pyridin-3-yl)-pyrimidine-4,6-diamine; [2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-4-yl]-diethyl-amine; (1-ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-imidazo [4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-amine; [2,5-dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-4-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine; [4-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-2-yl]-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-amine; [4-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethylphenoxy)-pyridine; [3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine; and [2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-pyridin-4-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of one of the above compounds.

Claims 13 and 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of (a) a disorder or condition the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder or condition selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias, including social phobia, agoraphobia, and specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, mood disorders associated with premenstrual syndrome, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; chronic fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; post operative ileus; ulcer; diarrhea; stress-induced fever; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies or addictions, including dependencies or addictions to alcohol, cocaine, heroin, benzodiazapines, or other drugs; drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone; obesity; infertility; head trauma; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage, including cerebral ischemia, for example cerebral hippocampal

ischemia; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions, including porcine stress syndrome, bovine shipping fever, equine paroxysmal fibrillation, confinement dysfunction in chicken, sheering stress in sheep, and human-animal interaction stress in dogs; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; osteoporosis; premature birth; hypoglycemia, and Syndrome X in a mammal or bird, comprising administering to a subject in need of said treatment an amount of a compound according to claim 1, that is effective in treating such disorder or condition.

Claims 16-28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_{24} and R_{25} are selected from $-CF_3$, $-CHF_2$, CF_2CF_3 , and CH_2CF_3 ,

Claims 30 - 45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (new). A compound according to claim 12, wherein the compound is the mesylate salt of 4-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-3,6-dimethyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenoxy)-pyridine.

Claim 47 (new). A compound according to claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable salt is a salt of methanesulfonic acid.

Claim 48 (new). A pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 1 in an amount that is effective to provide the composition with CRF antagonist activity in a mammal to be treated and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 49 (new/withdrawn). A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 50 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 5 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 51 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 6 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 52 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 7 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 53 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 8 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 54 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 9 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 55 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 10 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 56 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 11 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 57 (new/withdrawn) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound according to claim 12 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 58 (new/withdrawn). A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 46 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.

Claim 59 (new/withdrawn). A method for treating a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of the compound according to claim 47 that is effective in antagonizing CRF in the subject.